

**CITY OF LODI
INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING
"SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2005**

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, August 16, 2005, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members – Hansen, Hitchcock, Johnson, Mounce, and Mayor Beckman

Absent: Council Members – None

Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Blackston

B. TOPIC(S)

B-1 "Youth Commission update"

Tea Silvestre, Community Center Director, reported that the Youth Commission was formed in 1993. Originally, it was comprised of 11 adults, and in 1995, five youth commissioners were appointed and the adult advisors were decreased to six. Today, there are seven adult advisors and nine youth commissioners. A staff liaison was provided from the Parks & Recreation Department and later the responsibility was transferred to the Community Center. Ms. Silvestre stated that the mission and programs of the Youth Commission has remained constant over the years and the enthusiasm has never been stronger. The Teen Lead program was cut three years ago due to a decrease in funding. This program was chosen to be discontinued because it affected the least number of youth. The annual "Wet 'N Wild" event (later named "Take the Lake") was changed from an event for middle school and high school aged youth to only middle school students. This was done in response to complaints that had been received about the behavior of the high school students. The monthly youth forum has been a successful venue for improving communication with youth of the community. Ms. Silvestre noted that there is a changing culture, which is important for the Commission to evolve with so that it can best serve the needs of the youth. She recommended that a charter or bylaws be developed for the Youth Commission and adopted by the Council. Within the document, it would be important to define whether the Commission should be driven by the youth or the adult advisors. She noted that, each year, the Commission interviews every candidate that applies to fill vacant positions; however, the ultimate decision for appointment lies with the Mayor. She felt that an annual joint meeting with the Commission and the Council would be helpful. Lodi Unified School District (LUSD) has withdrawn its funding for the program. Youth Commissioners solicit sponsorships and donations to fund events.

Council Member Hansen suggested that LUSD be contacted to reinstitute its funding of the Youth Commission. In addition, he recommended that LUSD also adopt the Commission's charter/bylaws along with the Council. He felt that it was important that the Commission be driven by its youth members. He expressed hope that funding could be restored in the future to resume the Teen Lead program. He supported the current process of the Commission interviewing all applicants and felt that Mayors should strongly consider their input when making recommendations for appointments.

Council Member Johnson also expressed support for the Teen Lead program.

Council Member Mounce mentioned that she would be attending the Lodi 2x2 Committee with LUSD members tonight and would broach the subject of Youth Commission funding.

Mike Areida, former liaison to the Youth Commission, reported that the cost to attend the annual youth conference was \$8 per person. Previously, Lodi High School subsidized \$6 of the cost for its students to attend. This year, it withdrew its funding and, of 245 who typically attended the conference in past years, only 45 participated this year.

Ricky Gill, Youth Commissioner, noted that there are obstacles unique to the Commission, e.g. a youth/adult partnership and a public/private partnership. He stated that soliciting sponsorships for events can be difficult work. Recently, difficulties were encountered in getting a contract approved. Even though it was a vendor that had been used before, the process took two months to complete.

Council Member Johnson asked that Youth Commission minutes be sent to Council on a regular basis.

C. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

D. ADJOURNMENT

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 a.m.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Blackston
City Clerk

-----Original Message-----

From: Phillip Pennino [mailto:ppennino@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Friday, August 12, 2005 10:11 PM

To: Susan Hitchcock; Larry Hansen; John Beckman; JoAnne Mounce; Bob Johnson

Cc: Summer; Susan Blackston; Blair King; Tea Silvestre

Subject: Youth Commission

Mayor and Councilmembers

I understand the Youth Commission will be discussed at the Tuesday Shirt Sleeve Session. Unfortunately I will be out of town and unable to attend. I appreciate the opportunity to talk to Blair King and Tea Silvestre regarding the Youth Commission.

The Youth Commission is very dear to me. While I believe the Youth Commission has lost its focus from its original intent, there is an opportunity to re-focus and make the Youth Commission stronger. Allow me to provide you with some background.

The Youth Commission was started when I was Mayor in 1993. Rick Souza, then President, LUSD and myself got together to form a joint partnership to create the Lodi Youth Commission. This joint effort focused on teens from 7th through 12th grade. Seven Youth Commissioners and Five Adults worked together and developed a series of programs that raised the awareness of teens in our community.

The Council wanted the Youth Commission to be a standout and separate identity. In addition the Council wanted the Youth Commission to be a direct report to the Council on issues impacting the teens of Lodi. So the Youth Commission was put under the leadership of Charlene Lange at HSS. It was the Council opinion that if it was a part of the Parks and Recs program it would just become another program.

Some of the original programs included:

- Annual Youth Conference - this event was geared for High School students and featured professionals from our community speaking to the teens about their careers and their future.
- Teen Lead - This was modeled after the Lodi Chamber of Commerce Leadership Lodi Program. Up to 30 teens met for a half day once a month to hear from key leaders in our community and to learn more about Lodi. The monthly programs included; Business Day at General Mills; Government Day at City Hall; Agriculture Day hosted by the Ag community; and Health Care, hosted by Lodi Memorial to name a few of the programs.
- Wet and Wild - A day of fun filled events at Lodi Lake. High School & Junior High teens would come and spend a day at the lake listening to music, playing in the water, and having fun on the inflatable toys. Yes we did have an occasional problem, but they were minor and handled appropriately.
- Teen of the Month - Once a month, the youth Commissioners select a "Teen of the Month" who is highlighted at the Council Meetings.

These plus many of the other activities done by the Youth Commission helped raise the awareness and activity level higher in Lodi. It has a positive impact on so many teens. Can it be revamped and refocused? Yes. If needed (because I believe in the program), I would be glad to help refocus the Youth Commission. In addition, if I am not the right person (and that is ok) my daughter, Summer, who was a Youth Commissioner would be glad to assist.

B-1

In regards to funding, it should be minimal. For the first nine out of twelve years the Youth Commission was staffed by a part time person. Additional money was raised from the community. Many businesses were (and are still) willing to fund Teen Programs if you have the right activities.

The bottom line is that I hope you will keep the Youth Commission, refocus it and make it the pride of Lodi it once was. Please let me know if I can help.

Sincerely,
Phil Pennino

filed 8-18-05



Youth Commission

Presentation to Council

Presented August 16, 2005

History



- Established by motion (not resolution) on 4/7/93
- No formal charter; plan only
- Assistance from Parks & Rec
- Serviced 12,000 teens (1993)
- Addressed drop-out rate (20+%)



Intent/Purpose

- **Original**: “To enhance and strengthen our community with a show of support for youth”
- **Current**: “To affect positive growth in young adults through a variety of activities that will generate interest and participation within the Greater Lodi Area.”



Original Standard Programs

- Monthly Commission Meetings
- Semi-monthly Committee Meetings
- Teen-of-the-Month
- Wet & Wild (annual)
- The Crush Dance (annual)
- HSS' Fundraising Gala (service project)
- Youth Conference (annual)
- Scholarships (annual)
- Applicant Interviews (annual)
- Teen Lead



Current Standard Programs (-1)

- Monthly Commission Meetings
- Semi-monthly Committee Meetings
- Teen-of-the-Month
- Take the Lake (annual)
- The Crush Dance (annual)
- HSS' Fundraising Gala (service project)
- Youth Conference (annual)
- Scholarships (annual)
- Applicant Interviews (annual)



Why the Changes?

- Teen Lead
 - Cut in early 2003 (before new Liaison hired)
 - Budget reasons
 - Least impact (would affect only 25-35 kids)
- Wet & Wild
 - Complaints from LUSD, P&R Commissioners, volunteers, LPD, and parents
 - High School youth are the focus of 2 other programs, so why not focus the lake activity on Jr. High
 - Inflatables (\$2K) only used by Jr. High kids
 - Despite increased security and chaperones, dance portion of the event was still out of control
 - Feedback from high schoolers “I’m only here for the dance”



Current Structure

- 9 young adults; 7 Adult advisors
- Ages 13 to 19
- Terms: 2 years for youth;
3 years for adults
- Works with a City Staff Liaison
(part-time person)



Current Goals

- Assist in developing future leaders and supporters of the community.
- Provide opportunities for young adults to have fun, safe and social activities.
- Visibly and positively represent the young adults of Lodi area.



Current Goals (Cont)

- Inform and involve young adults about rewarding and challenging relationships between business and government
- Inspire and motivate young adults to achieve their greatest leadership potential and serve their community
- Recognize young adults for their strong successes and achievements.



Proposed New Programs

- Halloween Dance (annual)
- Job Fair (annual)
- Master Calendar of "What to Do"
- Monthly youth forums to discuss current events and teen needs
- Promote the youth commissioners as "spokespeople" for Lodi's youth



Visioning Growth

- Clearinghouse for youth-related information
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Concerts
 - Events
 - Other activities
- Assessment organization
 - Ask the youth about their needs in a semi-formal setting (e.g. “mini-conferences” or “public forums”)
 - Help youth understand their strengths/weaknesses



Ongoing Challenges

- Turnover – student appointees serve a maximum of 3 years
- Changing Teen Culture
- Resistance to Change (by adults)
- Budget restraints
- Balancing social and educational events



Temporary Challenges

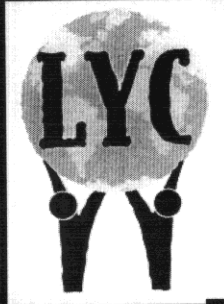
- New staff leadership
 - 2 new liaisons in 2.5 years
 - New Comm. Ctr. director
- Budget constraints
 - LUSD budget dictated their withdrawal from the partnership just over 3 years ago
 - City budget cuts have dictated less available staff hours for liaison; less programming \$\$



Staff Recommendations

- Formalize mission with City Council charter resolution (input from current Commission)
- Decide on focus:
 - Remain Youth-driven?
 - Move to Staff-driven?
- Continue to Interview Commission Applicants

Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission



2004 - 2005

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission is to affect positive growth in young adults through a variety of activities that will generate interest and participation within the greater Lodi area.

Program Goals

- Inform and involve young adults about rewarding and challenging relationships between business and government
- Inspire and motivate young adults to achieve their greatest leadership potential and serve their community
- Recognize young adults for their strong successes and achievements.
- Assist in developing future leaders and supporters of the community.
- Provide opportunities for young adults to have fun, safe and social activities.
- Visibly and positively represent the young adults of Lodi area.

Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

History and Overview

- Formed jointly by Lodi Unified School District and the City of Lodi in April 1993.
- Comprised of 16 members, appointed by the Mayor: 9 Youth Commissioners and 7 Adult Advisors
- The Youth Commission reports to the City Council



History and Overview

Liaisons:

- First Liaison, Yvette Maragliano, was hired in October 1996.
- Mike Areida was hired as Liaison in July 2003.
- Maxine Smith, former Youth Commission Assistant, was hired as Liaison in May 2005.

The Liaison is employed as a part-time employee with the City of Lodi, working up to 1000 hours a year to help coordinate the programs of the Youth Commission.

Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

Serving Lodi Area Schools

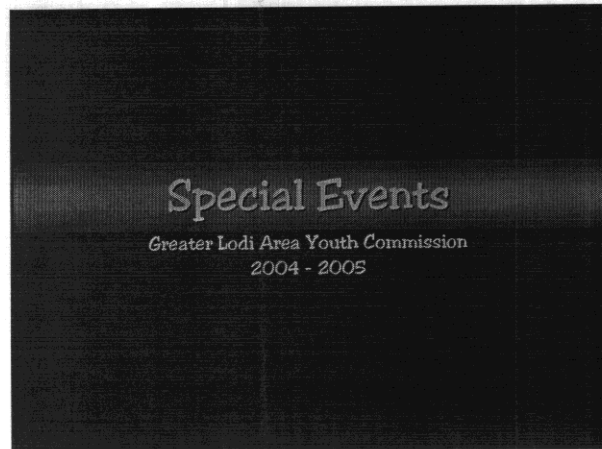

High Schools:

- Lodi High
- Tokay High
- Bear Creek High
- Liberty Alternative
- Plaza Robles Alternative
- Ronald McNair High
- Lodi Academy
- Jim Elliot Christian
- St Mary's

Junior Highs:

- Delta Sierra
- Christa McAuliffe
- Elkhorn
- Henderson
- Houston
- Lodi Middle
- Millswood
- Morada Eastview

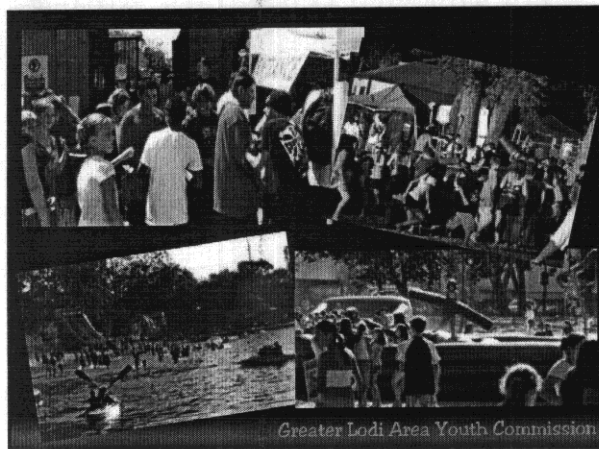
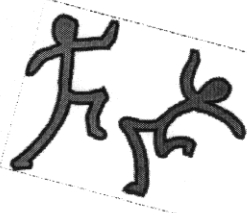
Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

New name, new focus

- Held Saturday, August 7
- Wet 'n Wild became Take The Lake
- Junior High only event
- Inflatables, food and beach play
- Approximately 500 students

Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

The Crush 2004

- Held Friday, August 27
- Presented with Omega Psi
- First Hall at Hutchins Street Square
- 850+ in attendance
- Money used to fund scholarships


Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission



Haunted Hutchins

- Partnered with the Lodi Arts Commission and the Lodi Arts Project Fund to coordinate this event
- 3000+ community members served

Lodi Arts Commission
Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission



daring to dream willing to work

Youth Conference 2005

- Friday, February 25
- Held at Lodi Academy
- 500 students in attendance
- Interactive Career Day

Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

On-Going Programs

Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission
2004 - 2005

Teen of the Month

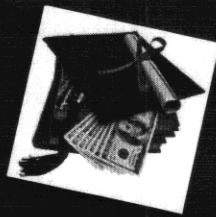
- Monthly throughout the school year
- Teen honored for community participation, leadership, qualities and good citizenship.
- Recognized at Council meeting, press releases sent out to media



Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

Scholarship Program

- Funded by the Crush Dance
- Awarded Two \$500 scholarships
 - Alec Pasquarella, Tokay High
 - Katherine Lott, Lodi High
- One \$1000 scholarship
 - Laura Suess, Lodi High
- Awarded to high school seniors
- Chosen by application in April



Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

Service Programs

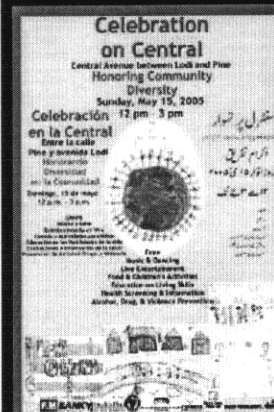
Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission
2004 - 2005

Hutchins Street Square Holiday Gala

Saturday, December 4

Held at Hutchins Street Square

Provide Volunteer Support

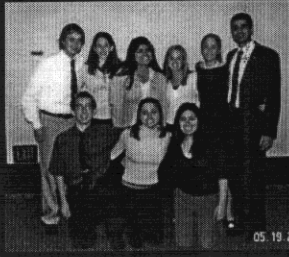


Celebration on Central

- Sunday, May 15
- Carnival Game Booth
- Recruited adult volunteers to chaperone events
- Recruited junior highers to join Take The Lake Committee

Thank You...

From the 2004 - 2005
Greater Lodi Area
Youth Commission



05.19.2



Youth Commissioners:

Erin Brink, Gabi delCastillo,
Brent Dutra, Ricky Gill,
Brooke Goodbary,

Jacqueline Hamilton, Kevin Howard,
Sarah McConahey, Elisa Villerreal

Adult Advisors:

Richard Dean, Jeff Fleak, Dale Jones,
Elizabeth Mazzeo, JoAnne Mounce,
Mary Ann Porterfield,
Brad Van derHam